

Interactive comment on “Brief Communication: CATALYST – a multi-regional stakeholder Think Tank for fostering capacity development in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation” by M. P. Hare et al.

Anonymous Referee #1

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This communication reflects real and impressive progresses made by "research-action" multidisciplinary groups in Social Sciences, to create and implement practical knowledge, especially people centered actions, procedures and tools, for DRR and CCA capacity building, in a multi-regional stakeholder network based approach, i.e. stakeholder clustering, in real life conditions for affected/exposed regions in 4 continents of the world. It is based on extensive knowledge survey and methodological activities successfully carried out in a series of two EU FP7 research projects: CapHaz-Net and CATALYST. In this context, further to it's UN-ISDR definition, capacity development is

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mainly addressed as a development process of knowledge products that describe best practices suitable for each of the regions selected. One of the paper's originality is to carefully describe the "think tank" features - "global in extent but regional in implementation" - as the back bone of the project implementation. Relevant and useful as well for capacity building policy making improvement are the paragraphs on the 5 main recommendations emerging from the Think Tank, which are emerging as universal, to be implemented at various governance scales. The communication concludes with interesting lessons learnt from running the one year multi regional Think Tank, commenting on the advantages/drawbacks of virtual vs face to face meetings, on indicators such as the increase in membership and of the participation rate to the Think Tank, as well as the evaluation enquiry carried out across the stakeholder members to the Think Tank. It is wisely suggested, as an ultimate recommendation of the project (finishing in September 2013) to promote and "set up country specific projects, to interpret and transfer the best practices identified at the regional level to practicable solutions at the country/local level, with an emphasis on adaptive governance" ... A further main indicator of the capacity building exercise's efficiency and sustainability would be for NHESS editors to receive at a later stage a short communication from the Think Tank network itself, reporting on the progress of country specific projects... possibly under the auspices of one of the UN agencies acting on capacity building improvement on a steady state basis, both worldwide and with targeted priority countries.

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